

HAMLET Act 2 pp. 53-60 (new) / 83-90 (old)

Use this "chart" below to help you better understand what is happening on pp. 55-57 new / 85-87 old.

Priam-Pyrrhus-Hecuba situation

TROY

Priam (wife = **Hecuba**)

King of Troy

son **Paris**
and son **Hector** (killed by Achilles)
and son **Polites** (killed by Pyrrhus)

SO, PRIAM needs to avenge his son's death by killing Achilles (but already dead)

or
Pyrrhus

(greater revenge since

he will, by killing Pyrrhus, kill

the chance of the family continuing)

Achilles (supposedly Pyrrhus' dad)
(killed by Paris by arrow sent to Achilles heel by Apollo)

He killed Hector who was one of Priam's sons

son **Pyrrhus**

*motive for going after Priam: revenge

(Priam taunted him that he was not worthy enough to be the son of Achilles--casting doubt on his

parentage)

•like Hamlet he hesitates when

faced with his task (sword seemed to silt in the air) his perfect moment

• "pyrrhic victory"...when you win

at great loss (he won a great

battle but there was barely

anyone left but him to celebrate

•he kills Priam by beheading him &

mincing his body so much so

that the corpse was unrecognizable.

•he killed Polites right in front of Priam

and Hecuba

19	20	A
17	18	B
16	15	C
14	13	D
12	11	E
10	9	F

Name _____ Due date: _____ Hr. _____

Wallenberg (rev. term 4 '00)

Hamlet - Quiz

Act II, pp. 53-60 (new)/pp. 83-90 (old)

/ 20 =

Note: If this is used as a take-home quiz, the page numbers in parentheses must be filled out and be correct, or you will lose a flat 2 points off your FINAL SCORE!

1. What were actors called in Elizabethan England rather than "actors"? (p. _____)
2. Why does Hamlet greet one of the male actors by calling him "my young lady and mistress"? (p. _____)
3. Why were these actors more or less forced out of the city and so came to Denmark to find audience? (p. _____)
4. Why does the lead actor recite a very particular speech in this scene? (What drives his choice of selection?) (p. _____)
5. In the lead player's lengthy speech a number of allusions are present. With what country are all of the following associated? Aeneas--ominous horse--Pyrrhus--Priam--Hecuba (p. _____)
6. What is there in its content that parallels Hamlet's own situation? (p. _____)
7. In the players' speech, he describes the death of one of the characters. Which one of the following was slaughtered? Pyrrhus or Priam or Hecuba (p. _____)
8. The text describes the wife of the slaughtered man as seeing the killer "make malicious sport / In mincing with his sword her husband's limbs" and goes on to say that her "instant burst of clamor . . . would have made match the burning eyes of heaven / And passion in the gods." Which of these is the wife of the man who is slaughtered? Pyrrhus or Priam or Hecuba (p. _____)
9. What causes the abrupt ending of the speech? See the bottom of 57 (new) and bottom of 56 (new) / bottom of 87 (old) and bottom of 88 (old).
10. One of the characters says that "they" are the abstract and brief chronicles of the time. Who are "they"? (p. _____)
11. The actors are planning on presenting a play before Claudius and his court the next night. However, this play will be very unique. Hamlet requests that the lead player do something. What does Hamlet ask him to do? (p. _____)



The next questions all deal with **Hamlet's third soliloquy** (pp. 58-60 new/ pp. 88-90 old). Hopefully, after paraphrasing the soliloquy and answering the following questions, you will have a better understanding of where Hamlet is at emotionally.

- _____ 12. Why, specifically, does Hamlet refer to Hecuba in this soliloquy?
_____ (HINT: Do not say because she reminds him of his mother.
_____ Review p. 57 new/p. 87 old, lines 530-531 **and** p. 59 new/p. 89
_____ old, lines 560-576 carefully to help you find the answer.)

- _____ 13. How does he view himself in light of the "advancement" of his
_____ plan to fulfill the command of the ghost? (lines 576-591)

- _____ 14. Explain why in lines 598-599 Hamlet calls himself a "drab" and a
_____ "scullion" (new book wording)/"stallion" (old book wording).

- _____ 15. Explain Hamlet's new plan. (lines 600-617)

- _____ 16. To which interpretation of the honesty of the ghost is he leaning
_____ (malevolent or benevolent)?

- _____ 17. Why does Hamlet say "the play's the thing"? (line 615)

- _____ 18. After reading Hamlet's third soliloquy, describe the overall tone as
_____ well as Hamlet's view of himself.

19-20. Jot down **2 comments** OR **questions** about Act II, sc. 2 or about the play in general.

- 19. _____
- 20. _____

Note: Did you remember to fill out missing page numbers? If not, you will lose a flat 2 points off your score!

